

Approved 5.11.2010

Minutes

Fenwick Island Environmental Meeting

April 13, 2010 at 10:30 AM

1. **Call to Order:** John Belian led the flag salute and called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. **Attendance:** Members – *Co Chairs John Belian and Vicki Carmean, Buzz Henifin, Mary Pat Kyle, Lois Twilley, Harry Haon.* Pubic – *John Rymer, Lynn & Dave Andrews.*
3. **Program:** In order to answer many of the follow up questions from last month's "Health of the Bay" program, Buzz Henifin gave a special presentation on "Bay Water Testing Results in the Little Assawoman Bay." Beginning with a brief synopsis about the history of water testing programs in the bays, Mr. Henifin indicated that the present program grew out of an earlier plan developed by Mary Pat Kyle and others called the *Delaware Inland Bays Comprehensive Conservation Plan*. The present plan is called the *Inland Bays Citizen Monitoring Program*.

As part of DNREC's *Delaware Sea Grant Monitoring* program, samples are taken 1 @ week from the ocean to measure bacteria levels. Any score over 104 is not considered good. Bay waters are tested using many volunteers like Buzz Henifin, who monitors three stations: Henifins' dock, Andrews' dock, Joe McKee's dock. Any score over 138 (!?) from the bay waters is not considered good. For example, in June/July of 2009 the bay water score was 2400, and in September of 2009 the score was 1200. Rain and dry spells both affect the test results. Usually when the readings are high, officials recommend that incidental contact with the water is OK but not good for swimming. In the Rehoboth area, high readings have resulted in selected beaches being closed. Water clarity is not a good way to judge water quality.

In the discussion that followed, some of the following ideas were covered:

- J. Rymer noted the need for quantifiable results. Buzz reported that these are available but difficult to interpret. The group agreed that EC needs to recommend that results be made public, but in an understandable way.
- The group questioned whether the Town has an obligation to warn/ educate the residents about high bacteria counts.
- In response to a question about the impact of new sewer lines going in around the watershed area, Buzz Henifin stated that it may take 10 to 15 years to

realize the benefits of sewer lines replacing septic systems since their contents still need to filter through the ground to the bay waters.

- The group discussed making a link on the Town's Green Page to DNREC's website. Agnes D. later confirmed that this could be done, but she needs the specific contact information.
- The group also discussed the need to explore what other communities are doing.

4. **Other Items on the Agenda:**

Adopt a Highway: Buzz Henifin promised to bring materials to the next meeting.

Dune Grass Planting Report: John Belian indicated that the planting went well from Houston Street to the north end of town. However, the State did not provide enough grass to cover all the dunes in town. When the Town Manager checked into the situation, he was told by the responsible agency that there was not enough money to purchase more. In addition, the window of time for planting the grass had passed.

FIN Article: Vicki Carmean offered to write the article and then email it to members for comments and editing.

Casino Update: Harry Haon indicated that nothing new had happened, that the topic had quieted down. However, he predicted that certain groups were still looking at the Indian River site very seriously.

Other Topics: Because time was limited, the other items on the agenda will be included on the May meeting agenda.

5. **Next Meeting: May 11th at 10:30 AM in the Town Hall**

6. **Meeting Adjourned: 11:59 AM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Carmean, EC Co Chair